(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for extending financial assistance to the new sugar cooperative factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government does not give any financial assistance for establishment of new sugar factories. However, the Central Financial Institutions grant loans to new sugar factories after due appraisal of their projects.

Setting up sugar factories in Maharashtra

859. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has forwarded 119 proposals of co-operative Sugar factories;

(b) if so, by when the final decision would be taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that loans from the sugar development fund for cane development are not available to the new sugar factories; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to solve the problems of inadequate cane availability in the factories located in the non-traditional cane pockets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) After the issue of the Licensing Policy guidelines for the 7th Five Year Plan on 2.1.1987, Government of Maharashtra has forwarded 163 proposals for setting up of new sugar factories in the cooperative sector in Maharashtra State. Out of these, as on 30.6.1991, 125 proposals are still pending with the Government.

The licensing Policy guidelines for Sugar Industry are presently being reviewed by the Government. These applications would be considered as per policy formulated after the aforesaid review.

(c) and (d) Loans from Sugar Development Fund for cane development schemes are normally not given until the trial crushing is over. Licencees are themselves required to take up appropriate cane development programme in the operational areas of new sugar factories in order to enable them to get adequate quantity of cane for crushing.

860. [*Transferred to 1st August, 1991*]

Criteria for sanctioning new railway lines

861. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for sanctioning the new railway lines;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra recommended Bir-Ahmednagar, Parli Vaijnath Railway line about 20 years back;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not sanctioning the above railway line;

(d) whether Government propose to raise the funds as has been done in the case of Konkan Railway Project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if the answer to part (d) above be in negative the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) in their Report submitted in May, 1980 had recommended the following criteria for new line projects:—

(i) Project-oriented lines to serve new industries or tap mineral or other resources.

(ii) To serve as a missing link which can form alternative routes to relieve the congestion on exsiting busy rail routes.

(iii) On strategic considerations.

(iv) As developmental lines to establish new growth centres or give access to remote areas.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra and recommended Ahmednagar-Bir-Parli Vaijnath new BG line project. However, as the survey carried out in 1990 has revealed inadequate traffic prospects and due to severe resource crunch faced by the Railways, the same could not be considered for taking up.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) While approving Konkan Railway Corporation the Ministry of Finance has laid down that no such Corporation would be formed during the 8th Plan.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

862. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Railway projects in Maharashtra which were recommended by Government of Maharashtra;

(b) on what grounds the projects were rejected;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has shown its willingness to participate in the project cost of some Railway lines; and

(d) by when Government would take a final decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Following railway projects have been recommended by the Government of Maharashtra:

(i) Convension of Manmad-Aurangabad MG section into BG and subsequently extending it upto Parli Vaijnath and Adilabad.

(ii) Conversion of Latur-Barsi-Pandharpur-Miraj NG section and extending it upto Latur Road and laying a new railway line joining Osmanabad with this line.

(iii) Construction of a new broad guage line from Ahmednagar to Parli Vaijnath via Beed.

(iv) New BG line from Khamgaon to Jalna.

(v) Conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia-Jabalpur NG to BG.

(vi) Conversion of Daund-Baramati NG line to BG.

(b) Project mentioned at (i) above has already been taken up and its 1st Phase viz., Manmad-Aurangabad (114 km) is expected to be completed during 1991-92. The projects at item (ii) to (iv) have been found to be financially unremunerative. The updating of survey for Jabalpur-Gondia-Chanda Fort conversion project has been taken up. No survey has so far been done for project mentioned at item (vi). However, owing to acute resource crunch, it is not possible to consider this project for the present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) While approving the Konkan Railway Project, Ministry of Finance had laid down that no more Corporation would be formed during VIIIth Plan.

Stock position of Wheat and Rice in FCI Godowns

863. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing stock of wheat and rice in Food Corporation of India godowns, as on date; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to export wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The estimated stocks of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 1.1.1991 were as under:—

Wheat	..	107.89 lakh	tonnes*
Rice	..	89.92 lakh	tonnes

[Including stocks held by State Governments of Punjab and Haryana on Central account.]